

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

### Election of Invention Requirement

The examiner has issued an election of invention requirement in the present case. Claims 43-83 are currently pending in the present application. The Examiner has identified the currently pending claims as being directed to three (3) patentably distinct inventions:

Invention I - claims 44-63 and 79-83, drawn to a prosthetic limb socket, (class 623, subclass 36);

Invention II - claims 43, 64, and 67-78, drawn to a valve assembly, (class 251 subclass 365); and

Invention III - claims 65 and 66, drawn to a method of donning a prosthesis, (class 623, subclass 36).

In order to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 121, the Applicant elects to prosecute Invention I (claims 44-63 and 79-83), as identified by the Examiner. Applicants' election is made without prejudice. Applicant will also be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species, provided that all claims to each additional species are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141.

## CONCLUSION

The Applicant has elected to prosecute Invention I (claims 44-63 and 79-83), as identified by the Examiner. As the Applicant believes claims 44-63 and 79-83 to recite allowable subject matter, an action on the merits of said claims and a Notice of Allowance thereof is respectfully requested. Telephone inquiry to the undersigned in

App. No.: 08/947,668  
Inventor: Tracey C. Slemker  
Title: Valve Assembly For A Prosthetic Limb

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Group Art Unit: 3738

order to clarify or otherwise expedite prosecution of the present application is respectfully encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4-29-03

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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